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PR  
5-8-96

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: **John H. Vrzalik**

§ Attorney Docket No: **06 2916.295**

Assignee: **Kinetic Concepts, Inc.**

§ Examiner: **T. Pham**

Serial No: **08/382,150**

§ Group Art Unit: **3508**

Filed: **January 31, 1995**

§

Title: **BARIATRIC BED APPARATUS  
AND METHODS**

§

**RECEIVED**

MAY 6 1996

**GROUP 3500**

**AMENDMENT A**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C.

COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS  
AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

20231, on 26 April 96

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 26, 1996 in the above-captioned Application, please enter the following amendments and remarks.

**AMENDMENTS**

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 1, without prejudice, as follows:

- Subj 1. (Amended) A bariatric bed [having], comprising:  
a frame adapted to support patients having weights in the range of 500 to 800 pounds;  
[and a patient surface atop the frame] said frame including an articulated mattress  
support for supporting a mattress, [wherein the frame comprises:] said support including at least  
first, second and third articulatable sections positioned to support a leg region, a seat region and a  
head region, respectively, of the mattress supported on said support;  
a raise-and-lower mechanism for generally raising and lowering the entire mattress  
support relative to a floor-engaging portion of the frame;  
an articulation mechanism for articulating the [patient surface] mattress support from a  
relatively horizontal, lying position to a seated position; and